

The Montrose Enterprise, Volume XXIV, Number 10, February 1, 1912  – ELSIE
ACCUSED OF SASSING [ARTICLE]

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ELsie ACCUSED OF SASSING

**Montrose Girl Has Wordy War
with Superior**

Miss Elsie Vandergrift a well known Montrose girl figured in the news columns of the newspapers during the past few days as the girl who "sassed her superior." One of the Denver newspapers has this to say of the affair which brings the Montrose girl into the limelight:

"State employees who are 'sassed' by their fellow workers and run to the governor, please leave your resignations on the desk and—take your hat."

This ultimatum, promulgated by President Keating of the state land board, may become the law at the Statehouse.

It was handed down yesterday after the lid of the land board Pandora box tilted and freed more trouble. Chief Clerk George Thorne says Miss Elsie Vandergrift, advertising clerk, 'sassed' him. Straightway he flew to the governor.

"Now, simmer down, judge, simmer down," quoth the governor after hearing of the clerk's alleged 'sass.' "Give her a chance, say thirty days."

"All right, governor, thirty days, but no more," answered Chief Thorne, and returning to the land office he announced in tones that all could hear, without heeding,

"The governor says to give you thirty days in which to learn to behave, Miss Vandergrift."

Again the Pandora box tilted. Miss Vandergrift came up like a crossed hornet, shook a verbal fist at the chief clerk's face, and hotfooted to the governor's office and announced that Thorne had "sassed" her first. Thorne and Engineer Burwell of the land board followed.

"Her probation is broken," cried Thorne. "She didn't go thirty seconds without 'sassing' me again."

Thorne fumed and said he would demand her resignation of the land board. The governor hopes to dissuade him, while President Keating and Secretary Jefferson are trying to hold down the lid and prevent any more trouble from escaping.

"We want harmony," they say. "Let's be quiet and get down to work."

Friends of Miss Vandergrift say Thorne "sassed" her first in the hope of having her decapitated, that Miss Grace Swisher might get her place. They say it is part of a scheme of Engineer Burwell to hit back at President Keating, who brought about the reinstatement of Horace Havens over Burwell's friend, Thomas Annear, last Friday. This action was taken after Burwell is alleged to have broken an agreement with Keating to drop Mrs. T. E. Swann and put Miss Swisher in her place.